

A Full and Genuine

A C C O U N T

OF THE

Confessions and Behaviour, whilst under
Sentence of DEATH;

And of the

LIVES, CHARACTERS, and Last DYING WORDS,
OF THE

Two Malefactors,

One of whom was Executed at *Kingston upon Thames*,
on *Thursday* the 21st, and the other at *Kennington Common*,
in the County of *Surry*, on *Friday* the 22d of *August*, 1740.

WITH

A true COPY of the REMARKABLE PAPERS, which they
Delivered to the several DIVINES who attended them at the Places
of EXECUTION.

AND

Of some Original LETTERS, which they sent to their Friends since their
CONDEMNATION.

PARTICULARLY

Two PRAYERS, composed by Mr. Hooper himself, and which he constantly
made use of, during his Confinement; and a Letter he gave to his aged Father, the
Morning he died.

To which is added,

The TRIAL, CONFESSION, CHARACTER,
and DYING WORDS,

Of that Notorious ROBBER

BENJAMIN RANDAL,

WHO WAS

Executed at *Aylesbury*, the 8th of *August*, 1740, for the ROBBERY
and MURDER of Mr. *Watts*, Stone-cutter, of *High-Wickham*, in the
County of *Bucks*, where he now hangs in CHAINS.

L O N D O N:

Printed by W. RAYNER, and Sold by J. STANDEN, at *Caleb D'Amory's*
Head in the *Old-Bailly*. Price Three-pence.

A C C O U N T

OF THE

Confessions and Behaviour, whilst under Sentence of Death, and of the Lives, Characters, and last dying Words, of the two Malefactors, one of whom was Executed at *Kingston upon Thames*, on *Thursday* the 21st, and the other at *Kennington Common*, in the County of *Surrey*, on *Friday* the 22d of *August*, 1740, &c.

THE first two unhappy persons who are the subject of the following treatise, were condemned together, though separated in death. We begin therefore, according to the order of execution, with *Mary Cooper*; she seems to be the most notorious offender that suffered, and therefore very deservedly suffered first.

Mary, the wife of *John Cooper*, late of the parish of *Purhey*, was indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling-house of *Rebecca Torriano* in the night-time, and stealing one grey silk damask night-gown, a quilted petticoat, and other goods, *July* 30, about the hour of ten at night.

She was again indicted for feloniously stealing one cambrick mob, value 3*l*. 1*s*. 6*d*. of cambrick double ruffles, in the

dwelling-house of *Rebecca Torriano*, the property of *Eleanor Torriano*, spinster.

The prisoner making no defence was found guilty, and received sentence of death accordingly, along with *Joseph Hooper*, *Charles Green*, and *John Flood*, for highway robberies; and *George Metcalfe*, for privately stealing, together with *William Creeke*, for robbing the *Western* and *Portsmouth* Mails.

Charles Green, and *John Flood*, having had their sentences respited by the lords justices, for fourteen days; and *George Metcalfe* ordered to be transported for fourteen Years; the remaining three were ordered for execution, at the times and in the manner following, viz. *Mary Cooper* on the 21st instant, at *Kingston*; *Joseph Hooper* the next day at *Kennington Com-*

Commer, and *William Creeke* the *Monday* following, and afterwards to be hang'd in chains on *Bagshot-Heath*, at the place where the *Golden Farmer* formerly hung; the several dead warrants were issued accordingly.

Two of these executions being already past, as we here give an account of; that of *Mr. Creeke*, the town may expect to be supply'd with on *Tuesday* next; in which will appear some as surprizing and extraordinary relations (and all taken from his own mouth) as the life of one man could ever be supposed to furnish out.

Whilst in the stock-house at *Kingston*, *Mary Cooper* was daily visited by the minister of the town, who constantly pray'd with, and took great pains to instruct her in a manner suitable to a person in her unhappy circumstances; and to make her duly sensible of the many heinous sins of her life; and particularly of the wickedness of the fact for which she was to die. On each Sunday she survived her sentence she was convey'd to church, and she seemed to attend divine service with becoming decency and devotion; the minister, each time, endeavoured to suit his sermon to her condition; pleading, as if he had spoken to herself, for the *Greatest of sinners not to despair of the mercy of God, through Christ*; pressing such, how vile soever they might have been, to an unfeigned repentance towards God, for forgiveness and salvation, through faith in the blood of Christ; and to a firm dependance on the mediation and merits of a redeemer alone, who has made full satisfaction to the justice of God, and who is not only most able and ready, but willing to save the greatest sinner, who sincerely repents, and flies to him

for pardon and life eternal; how to do which aright, this worthy divine fully explained to her, and incessantly labour'd, both publickly and privately, to give her a true and just apprehension of, which this poor penitent creature, as he highly deserved it at her hands, was most heartily thankful to him for.

But to come to the particulars of the life and death of this extraordinary malefactor, for such she will be found to be, in whatever light we view her.

Mary Cooper, whose maiden name was *Hall*, was in the 35th year of her age, she was born at *Kingston upon Thames*, the town in which she drew her first, and almost last, breath; of very honest, laborious, and industrious parents; who, though but in rather mean, than flourishing circumstances, kept this their unfortunate child constantly at school, till she was fit to go out into the world, and get her own bread; which that she might do with the more ease and advantage to herself, she was taught to read and write, and work at her needle, till she was as perfect in all these as might fit her for a chamber-maid's place, to which they always designed her, in any gentleman's family they might be so happy as to procure one for her.

To the age of 29 years, she lived the comfort of her parents; valued and esteemed by all who knew her; and her behaviour engaged respect from even some of the best families round the place of her nativity: She lived in several reputable and profitable places, and in every one of these behaved so, as to support an extraordinary good character, and get the love and affection of every family she went into.

But the fatal period of her life now approached; the period from whence she dated all her misfortunes. Having been for some time courted by one *John Cooper*, a gardener at *Fulham*, an acquaintance of her father's, who was himself a gardener, she gave way to her inclination, and his persuasions, and in the 19th year of her life married him; she then threw herself, to express it in her own words, into the arms of the man who ruined her, and brought her to her shameful miserable end; he proved a very base and a very bad husband, and the cause of all her misfortunes; his extravagancies and vileness reduced them to distress, and it was her husband, as she declared, who forced her into those wicked courses, to support his profusion, which led her to this untimely end.

About three years ago she was wet nurse to a child of *Mr. Greenly*, who is a proctor at *Kingston*; and she might again have done very well, as she said, had not the same wicked instigator put her upon her own destruction: At this gentleman's house she began the practice, which, whenever an opportunity offered, she continued to follow, till the hand of justice laid hold of her, and put it past her power to renew it; being taken in the commission of the very fact, for which he died.

The case with her was as it generally is with other people; persons are seldom known to be thoroughly bad and wicked at once; but as one sin naturally leads to another, so they go on from small crimes to greater, till they are complete in villainy.

She turned her hand against her fellow servants, before she struck at her master; and pilfered boxes and trunks,

before she robbed a house. Two or three of *Mr. Greenly's* servants suffered in this manner by her; but especially a footman, from whose trunk she took seven pounds in cash, and a suit of cloaths; though this was the least injury which she did him, for she not only robbed, but for a time, ruined him.

For, these supplies from her fellow servants, not being sufficient for her purpose, she raises much greater from her master, by robbing him of plate, linnen, and jewels, to a very considerable value; and which were undoubtedly so, since she acknowledged, that she got upwards of three score pounds by the sale of them, though she sold a thief's pennyworth too.

This was the fact, which was attended with such sad consequences, to the poor fellow, from whom she took seven pounds and the clothes: It was his misfortune, just about the time his master's house was robbed by this wicked woman, as before mentioned, to have a friend or two, out of place, come to see him; whom he treated, as is usual for gentlemen's servants to do by a brother out of place, who are in places themselves: These were the only persons suspected: *Mr. Greenly* took up his man, charged him with the robbery, and his friends of being accomplices in it; the poor, and, as it has since been found, very honest innocent fellow was exposed, carried before a justice of peace, most strictly examined, and very undeservedly dismissed his service; and of course turned out of his bread.

Well, this extraordinary good luck and success, as she thought it, hardened the impious perpetrator of the horrid villainy, and was her encouragement to further

father's villainy; which costed a further sacrifice of the innocent, whilst the guilty only escaped: Mr. Greenly was plundered, and his house robbed, by her, a second time; and she lost away the booty, not only undiscovered (but as if the Devil, whose devoted servant she now was, had more work for her to do) undisturbed, and even unsuspected; and for her crimes several valuable faithful servants, were immediately turned out of doors, without giving any of them a character, which was such a blasting of their reputations, as they have not, till now, been able to get the better of; though the acting thus by them, was no more than what any other gentleman would have done in the like circumstances.

Having now got a pretty considerable sum of money together by these Robberies, which followed very close upon one another, her husband had a mind that she, to whom he owed it all, and who was now as wicked as himself, should share in the vicious indulgences, he was determined to give a loose too; and which she had so well enabled him to defray the expences of; accordingly he came to Mr. Greenly's, and in an abrupt rude manner demanded his wife; and, hurrying of her out of the house, brought her away with him. Mr. Greenly's lady, who had a great opinion of her, and value for her, was much concerned at her going away, and did all she could to persuade the husband to leave her behind him, but he was not to be prevailed upon.

She continued six months with her husband at London, but in what part of the town, or in what manner she spent her time, she absolutely refused to discover, any farther, than that they lived all the while, a very lascivious, debauched life; and went into all the criminal ex-

cesses, that their abandoned minds could prompt them to.

Having thus revelled and squandered away their money, she prepared to go in quest of more, in the old way; accordingly hearing that Mrs. Tarrism, late Putney, wanted a servant, (to wait upon one of the young ladies, her daughter) she went and offered herself; but first went for a character, so madam Greenly, who notwithstanding the brutish behaviour of her husband, Cooper, kindly and very readily gave her one, for which piece of good-nature, and tenderness towards this horrid wretch, she rewarded her by the most hellish act of ingratitude, she was then capable of committing; for a silver candlestick, and two silver spoons, laying in her way, she carried them off; attended by her former good fortune, of not being in the least thought of for the thief; so that the punishment of her crime, as usual, fell all to the share of the guiltless; and an unjustly suspected servant, lost both reputation and his livelihood upon her account, the next day.

Mrs. Greenly's character, of this infamous woman, gained her a ready admittance to Mrs. Tarrism's service, and being hired accordingly; she fell to work: as fast as she could, she was now too far gone, to deal in trifles; and her husband found that she lived here, not only without suspicion, but in high credit; and that every one in the family, from the character which had been given her, was firmly and fully persuaded of her honesty; she made the most of this desirable situation, and at several times robbed her lady of money, plate, and goods, to a much greater value than all that she had taken from Mr. Greenly. Still she was unsuspected, but taking this opportunity, and some silver out of a cabinet, which

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No one of the young ladies, a whisper ran thro' the family not much to her advantage, with her fellow servants; tho' the ladies were so far from being in the same way of thinking, that not one of them ventured to give the most distant hint of their suspicions; and Mrs. Torriano was so fully persuaded of her innocence, and the guilty of one of her footmen, that the poor fellow was taken up on suspicion, committed to the county gaol, and tried for his life at Kingston, at the *Midsummer* assizes before the last, for the stealing those very guineas. He was acquitted, but considering what he had suffered since, had he not lived to see the present day, he might as well have been hanged, for tho' acquitted, no body would entertain him in their service, or cared to employ him; so that for want of business, he has been almost perished, and has lived with a broken heart ever since, at the thoughts of lying under the reproaches of the world, for a crime he knew himself thoroughly to detest, and as wholly innocent of.

A guilty conscience wants no other assistance upon this man's coming off the bench, no fancy that she was thought of for the fact; and that those who had placed great confidence in her before, she imagined had a more watchful eye upon her than formerly, upon which she gave warning, and left her place.

But though she quitted her service, she made two successful visits to the house afterwards, and getting in (by a way she was well acquainted with) in the night, brought away, each time, a considerable quantity of valuable goods, and discovered.

The last and the only unsuccessful attempt that she ever made, as she said, was on the last day of the last Kingston assizes; she then had broken open a window and got into Mrs. Torriano's house, but was disco-

vered, and secured by the servants, in the lady's bed-chamber, before she could carry off the things she had stole; and being carried before a justice of peace, he committed her to gaol, and being the next day brought upon her trial, she was convicted, sentenced, and executed, as has been already related.

She was very far from being terrified, whilst under sentence, at the thoughts of her approaching fate: she rather wished to dye; often saying, that life would render her more miserable, than the worst, which in this world could befall her. She lamented in most bitter moving terms, the injuries she had done to her innocent fellow servants, who so severely suffered for her crimes; and indeed, those aggravating circumstances attending her committing of them she appeared very sensible of; they seemed to wound her conscience deeply, and bear very hard upon her, till the day before she died; from which time, to that of her execution, she was perfectly composed, and spoke with much assurance of her hope in the pardoning mercy of God thro' the merit of her saviour Jesus Christ. She declared she died in charity with, and forgave all the world, even her husband, who she said, had undone her, as she hoped for forgiveness, from God, herself. She thought it great happiness, that her honest father and mother were both dead, before this dreadful calamity befel her; which, as she said, would have broke their hearts, and brought their grey hairs with sorrow to the grave.

But that which she could not wholly disengage herself of, was a tenderness for her two infants, a little boy and girl, who are now taken in to *Fulham* work-house; she would often cry bitterly, whenever a thought of them came into her mind; and would often deplore their condition in very moving terms.

When she went on the commission of this

this last fact, she left them with her husband, at their lodgings, upon *Whitechapel* in *Rosemary-lane* near *Rag-fair*; under pretence of going to her friends to get some money, as she made her people believe with whom she lodged; but not returning according to the time appointed, the landlord and her husband went to Mr. *Greenley's* in quest of her on the Tuesday following next after the assizes; where, the first news they heard of her was, that she lay in *King-street* stock-house, fast for her life; upon which her husband got off, as fast as he could, run away, and hath not been heard of since.

This unhappy woman was very remarkable, both for strength, and activity of body, very unusual for one of her sex; but especially for the latter, she would throw herself over any thing he could lay her hands on; and, with one hand jump over a five-bar gate, with as much ease as any man alive.

She has one brother living, whose name is *John Hall*; he has a family, lives in good reputation, and follows his fathers business, gardening; when she came to the place of execution she delivered the following paper, directed to him by name, all written with her own hand, whoever she might employ to draw it up.

To my loving Brother, *John Hall*.

Dear Brother,

Once little thought I should ever have occasion to lend to you from a Prison, and much less from the Gallows; and I believe you thought so too; I deliver this at the latter, and with Rope about my neck; which, in a few Minutes, will put an end to my wretched Life, and all my Misery in this World; and, I hope, to all my Misery for Ever: I never was wicked till I marry'd; my Husband has undone me;

though I declare, he never was concerned with me in any one of the Robberies which I have been guilty of. I loved him too much, and I pay dear for it now; and I declare, upon the Word of a dying Woman, that he never was Try'd for a Robbery, or taken up by Judge or Justice, that I know of, as some Persons I hear have reported, in his Life; yet he has his Faults, and those, God knows, are very great ones; so that I cannot expect he will take the Care he ought of my poor Children; I therefore beg and pray of you, my dear loving Brother, that you would be as much a Friend to them as you can; remember 'tis out of the last requests made to you by your dying Sister; and if the Blessing of such a Wretch as I am, can be of any Benefit to them, they have it with my whole Soul; I beg you would forgive my having brought Disgrace upon you, by my shameful Death; my Sentence is very just; God is Righteous: I have grievously Sin'd against him, and am Miserable; though blessed be the Name of God, I am fully assured that he has forgiven me all my Sins, and I shall be happy with him in another World, for the sake of Christ; I have many Times deserved what now befalls me; having at several Times robb'd Mr. *Greenley*, and my Lady *Torriano*, who were alway very kind and good to me; I robb'd them, at least, to the Value of three Hundred Pounds; though I did not make near so much of what I stole: It breaks my Heart to think how I misused my Fellow-Servants; I beg of them, for Christs sake, and my Souls sake, to forgive me. And now, dear Brother, Adieu; pray God bless you, and your Family; forget your Sister; but remember her poor Infants. Before this comes to your Hands I shall be dead.

Mary Cooper.

Write

Written in the Stock-House Prison at
Kingston, on Sunday Morning, August 17,
1740.

V. B. There is not any Alteration made
in the above Letter, except in the Spelling.

At the Place of Execution.

The reverend divine who had been so as-
siduous, for the good of her Soul, all the
time she was in the gaol; attended her in
her last moments; he pray'd with her, and
assisted her in her private devotions before
she was put into the cart which conveyed
her to the gallows, between eleven and
twelve in the fore noon; to which he ac-
companied her in a coach; and then got
into the cart at the Gibbet, where he read,
pray'd, and sung a psalm, as usual; to all
which she was very reverently attentive;
she wept, yet appeared as compos'd, as
any Person in her condition could well be;
and shewed many signs of contrition
and penitence; she desired the spectators
to take warning by her; and be particular-
ly careful how they gave way to the first
temptations to wickedness, for that there
was hardly any stopping after that, as she
had found to her ruin; she then gave the
letter above, for her brother to the minister;
and declared that all she had, confessed was
truth; and that she had nothing to add to
her confession; upon which the executioner
giving her notice, that he was going to
perform his office, she told him she was
ready; for she had not her work then to do,
and had rather die than live; upon which
she committed her soul to God, and was
turned off, whilst crying out, *Lord Jesus
Christ have mercy on me: her brother
took care of her Body.*

The day after the execution of this
unhappy woman, who shewed such to-
kens of true repentance, and sincere sor-

row for the crimes which brought her to
a shameful ignominious death, that she
moved compassion in all around her, the
hand of justice took place against a se-
cond malefactor, who received his sen-
tence of death, at the same time that
she received hers; he had made a
slender attempt to evade the stroke, by
endeavouring to saw off his fetters, and
escape out of prison, but whether he
had not the implements proper for ef-
fecting his design in time, or not qualified
to make the proper use of them, is uncer-
tain, for the whole amounted to no more
than to shew his inclination to have got
away if he could, which any person in
his case would have been glad to have
done, he had sawed one of his fetters al-
most through, which was not discovered
till his fetters came to be knocked off, on
the morning of his execution, so that
his intention proved wholly ineffectual,
and he was obliged to submit to his
fate.

This unhappy man, and very unhappy
he was indeed, if he is to be believed, liv-
ing or dying was *Joseph Hooper*, who with
his brother *William Hooper*, was indicted
for assaulting *Rugh Comyn* on the high-
way, putting him in fear, and taking
from him a silver watch, value 5 l. a seal
value 5 s. and 5 s. in money, in the pa-
rish of *St. Mary Lambeth*, June 16.

To support this indictment, *Mr. Com-
yn* deposed, that as he was returning from
the borough of *Southwark*, to *Wand-
sworth*, on the 16th of June last, he was
attacked about the midway, by two men,
one of whom taking hold of his horse's
bridle, they demanded his money and
watch, and took both; that advertising
his watch, a pawnbroker brought a
watch to him, which he swore to be his;
but that he could not swear either of the
prisoners

der the trouble. Consider this is a debt we must all pay, sooner or later; and can never do it, in a better time, than when we are prepared, as I trust in God I am. So the Almighty, who made and created you, bless and keep you Give my humble duty to my dear mother. Adieu — I resign to the mercy of God, your unfortunate son,

Jos. Hooper.

To *r. Joseph Hooper.*

These two prayers were composed by himself, and used by him during his confinement, and given by him to his wife, the day he died.

O MY Blessed Lord God Almighty, I believe in thee, strengthen my faith; I love thee, redouble my love. I hope in thee confirm my hope. I am heartily and sincerely sorry that I have offend'd thee. Encrease my repentance: Blessed be the hour in which my dear Jesus became incarnate, and was born for me: Blessed be the hour in which my dear Jesus died for my redemption: Blessed Jesus of heaven, have mercy on me now, and in the hour of my death; and receive my soul into thy everlasting happiness. *Amen.*

O LORD my time is at hand; my soul is heavy, even unto death: Look down upon me, power thine oyl of grace into my heart: pardon my sins; strengthen my faith; shorten my pains; and drive away Satan. Help me in this trouble; look upon thy Christ; he is my only Saviour and Redeemer. Come, Lord Jesus; wellcomely into thy hands I commend my soul; take it, O Lord; take me, the work of thine own hands; and let me die in thy fear, and rise again

in thy favour; that I may come to thy everlasting bliss, for Jesus Christ his sake *Amen.*

And now let us follow him to the place of execution:

About eleven o'clock he was conveyed to the gallows on *Kennington Common*, where he was attended by parson *Wilson*, when he came in sight of the fatal tree, he seem'd to be much less shock'd than he was at the agonies of his relations; he address'd himself to the devotions of the place, with becoming seriousness and attention; he appear'd very earnest offering up his private ejaculations to god for mercy; he declared that he was in perfect charity; and forgave all mankind as he hoped god would forgive him, and that he looked and hoped for mercy and salvation thro' the infinite mercy of his most merciful god and heavenly father, for the sake of Jesus Christ alone; upon whose satisfaction to the justice of God, and righteousness wrought out for him, he cast his soul; the cart just going to draw away, he reasserted his innocence of the fact for which he dyed, solemnly declaring with almost his last breath, that he was no more guilty of it than the child unborn; then giving a paper to the minister, the contents whereof is hereunto annex'd, he was turn'd off having just before repeated, into thy hands, O Lord I commit my Spirit, Lord Jesus Christ receive my soul.

We must not omit to mention that his old friend serjeant *Piteber* came from *Chelsea*, and put himself at the head of a party, on the day of execution, to secure his body for burial, as the last kind office he could do his departed comrade; but no attempt being made to disturb them he was brought back to his brother in law's house, from whence he has since been decently interred.

A Summary of the Paper deliver'd by Joseph Hooper just before he was turn'd off.

AS I shall answer for it at the awful bar of that God, before whom I am instantly to appear; I never committed the robbery for which I die: My sins have been many, and very great; but this adds neither to the number or the greatness of my offences; my sins are a burden to my soul; but this adds nothing to their weight; If the words of a dying man may have their weight who is neither afraid nor ashamed to own he fears his maker, and who has an awfull sense of the great almighty being upon his spirits, when he speaks, I hope to be believed in this assertion; as to myself, I

have no concern. I am entirely out of the question; I have no reputation to establish, I have none to hope for, my sentence, and death have cut me off from all such vain expectations; all I aim at, is to present unjust injurious reflections, on my account, upon my friends and relations; which will hereby be most assuredly prevented, unless I am thought the most daring impious wretch, that ever dy'd; who in his last moments when just on the brink of eternity, defy'd the almighty's vengeance, and then did worse to deserve falling under the divine wrath hereafter, than ever I had done to merit the being made the example of human justice here.

Aug. 22th 1740.

J. HOOPER.

The TRIAL, CONFESSION, CHARACTER,
and DYING WORDS,

OF

BENJAMIN RANDAL,

AT the Affizes and general gaol delivery for the county of Bucks, held at the town of Buckingham, before the lord chief justice Willes, on the 16th of July, 1740, Benjamin Randall was indicted for the murder of William Watts, of High Wickham, Stone Cutter: When upon his tryal he behaved very daring and impudent by laughing in the face of the court; he put himself upon his Tryal, by pleading not guilty; but the horrid fact was so fully prov'd by an eye witness to his doing of it that he had not a word to say in his own defence.

The principal evidence against the Prisoner was a clergyman, who was in company with mr. Watts; he depos'd that as mr. Watts and himself were travelling towards High Wickham they were attacked by the prisoner on horseback; who rode up to them with a cock'd Pistol in his hand, and bid them stand and deliver their money and watches; that they both knew him as he did them; that he himself gave him 6 l. in Money, and his gold watch; that he was the Person who married Randal's father and Mother, who always respected him; and he was in hopes that the Son would

would not use him ill, upon that Account, he therefore ventured to put him in mind of it and to ask for his watch again; that he said to him, as for my money you are welcome to it, but I beg of you, as you know me, that you would let me have my watch again; consider me as the man who marry'd your father and mother; that the prisoner damn'd him, and said, that he considered him as an old Rogue, who wanted for nothing, and that if he made another word about the matter he would blow his brains out, and lay him sprawling that moment; that he then turned to Mr. *Watts*; and with dreadful imprecations demanded his money; that Mr. *Watts* immediately put his hand to his pocket, in order to give it him as he apprehended, and that as he was feeling for it, he said *Randal* you know I am poor; upon which the base barbarous Villain clapt the Pistol to his head and shot him dead before he could pull his hand out of his pocket! And expected instantly to share his Fate; but the good providence of God prevented, and the horror of his conscience hurried him away: That he made for a wood, and was soon out of sight; and two men coming up he told them the whole Story, and shewed them the dismal spectacle; that being enraged and shock'd at the sight resolved to pursue him, and accordingly did; that when they got thro' the wood, they saw a horse shoeing at a farrier's shop in a village; that upon this, and in hopes of getting the prisoner out of the house, they agreed to sham a quarrel, and pretend to fight; that the skit took, for before they had got their cloaths off, *Randal* came up to see them fight; that they immediately seized him, and calling to the farrier to assist, he was taken and secured within two hours after he had committed the murder, the persons who took him, confirmed the latter part of this Evidence; and he neither denying any part

of what was sworn against him, or in any shape endeavouring to invalidate it, the jury, to the great satisfaction of the whole court, and country, without going out, brought him in guilty.

When taken there was found upon him, one gold, and three silver watches; a hauper, and three pistols; and a mould for casting bullets.

This wretch was about thirty years of age. He was born within three miles of the city of *Gloucester*, of poor parents, tho' they lived honestly, and were beloved by all in the village where they dwelt, being industrious pains taking people, as they call it; and they gave their boy the best education they could, though it was all thrown away upon him; for he was wicked from his infancy, and grew worse and worse. 'till he was condemned to be hang'd.

The first robbery he committed was on *Cawslawne*, where he met a parson, took from him all his ready money, and his horse, but return'd him two-pence, and sent back his horse to him at a certain time as he had promised.

The county of *Gloucester*, and parts about, have been as much pestered with this unhappy man, as any parts of *England* was with *Turpin*; people have dreaded him, he has been more cruel in his usage, and pitiful in his actions, even to the robbing of poor people and children.

Having committed a hundred pilfering tricks, tired of his father, and his father quite tired of him, he run away and went himself when young into *Evan's* dragoons which was quarter'd at *Bristol*; from whence he said he got a regular discharge, and then he enter'd into the light house, and about a year ago robb'd his lieutenant of a hundred and forty pounds: which he return'd and the Prosecution, was stop'd: some time after he had a new comrade who had a suit of colour'd cloaths; borrow'd his coat,

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coat, and borrow'd leather breeches of another man; and making free with a pair of pistols of one of the officers which were given him to clean; he left the regiment having a farloe for fourteen days to go (as he pretended) about twenty miles to visit and stay with a gentleman of his acquaintance, but staying beyond the time a party was sent to fetch him; and coming to the gentleman's house, they supposing to find him there beset the house; which the gentleman perceiving inquired the meaning of it: And was told they came to conduct Mr. *Randal* home to his regiment; upon being assured by the gentleman and his family that they knew no such Person they went home without him: some small time after, *Randall* sent a man with the coat to his comrade, and a pair of new skins and half a guinea to the man of whom he borrow'd the breeches: for to make him a new pair, and at the same time sent a letter to the officer that own'd the pair of pistols: that he was much oblig'd to him; for the use of his pistols; for that they had stood his friend many a time; and that he would certainly return them when he met with a pair to his liking: and would also send with them a suitable acknowledgement for the favour.

He confessed, that in the counties of *Gloucester, Worcester, Oxfordshire and Berkshire*, he had robbed fifty market people, ten pedlars, eight coaches, five parsons, and more people on horseback, than he was able to give any tolerable account of, whom he called Gentlefolks.

At the place of Execution.

The day of suffering being come, and he guarded to the fatal tree, he behaved with seeming penitence, and confessed the fact for which he died, he hoped he had made his peace with God, and owned he had committed notorious robberies, that he had deserved death long ago, and declared his sorrow for the murder of the person he died for. He begg'd of the Spectators, not to reproach or reflect on his relations and friends, for that they had done better for him than he had deserved. He desired the prayers of all present, with exhorting them, especially young people, to be careful of extravagant company, and sabbath-breaking, as he was a dying man, he freely forgave all men ind, and begged that all whom he had any ways wronged, would forgive him, as they hope to be forgiven in the world to come, hoping the Lord will have mercy upon his poor departing soul, for sooner or later the wicked are brought to light, he begged that this shameful end might be a warning to all persons to amend their lives. He was then turned off, crying to God for mercy; and now hangs in chains at *High Wickham*, where the unfortunate Mr. *Watts* lived, who brought this wicked man to his deserved end.

F I N I S.